

HOUSE BILL 1553

By Turner J

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 16; Title 55, Chapter 21, Part 1; Title 66, Chapter 19, Part 1 and Title 66, Chapter 28, Part 5, relative to abandoned, immobile, or unattended motor vehicles.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-16-105(e), is amended by deleting the subsection in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(e) When an employee of a public agency or a towing company contracting with a public agency takes possession of a vehicle found abandoned, immobile, or unattended, an employee of the agency shall verify ownership through the Tennessee Information Enforcement System (TIES) and shall place the ownership information on the towing sheet or form. The agency shall also provide the ownership information to any towing company or garagekeeper with whom the agency has a contract. If a public agency attempts to verify ownership information through the TIES and the response is "Not on File," the agency shall contact the department of revenue title and registration division which shall search records not contained in TIES for the ownership information, including the national crime information center system. The division shall also search any national or state government affiliated data center available to the division containing vehicle title and registration information in order to ascertain the owner of a vehicle registered in another state. If the title and registration division locates ownership information through these searches, it shall notify the appropriate public agency and the agency shall distribute the information as provided in this subsection (e). When any other person takes possession of a vehicle found abandoned, immobile, or unattended,

the action shall be reported immediately to the division of motor vehicles for verification of ownership on a form prescribed and provided by the registrar of motor vehicles.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.